

Message Text

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44

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FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: RESIGNATION OF KARL MOERSCH AS FDP LAND CHQIRMAN

SUMMARY:MOERSCH'S RESIGNATION DECEMBER 15 AS FDP CHAIRMAN FOR BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND HIS PROBABLE REPLACEMENT BY MARTIN BANGEMANN MAY HAVE BEEN DICTATED IN LARGE PART BY NATIONAL FDP CONSIDERATIONS. THE YOUNGER ELEMENTS OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP REPRESENTED BY BANGEMANN AND HIS LIEUTENANTS COME FROM THE JUNGDEMOKRATEN. THEY HAVE THE REPUTATION, IN THE CONSERVATIVE ELECTORATE HERE, OF BEING "RADICALS" IS THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP WITH ITS NEW LEADERSHIP WILL WISH TO COALESCE WITH THE CDU OR THAT THE CDU WOULD FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE, SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CDU NOT ACHIEVE AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AGAIN IN THE NEXT

LANDTAG ELECTIONS, WHICH WILL COME SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE 1976 BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH HIS TERM OF OFFICE AS LAND CHAIRMAN OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP WOULD ONLY HAVE EXPIRED ON JANUARY 5, 1975 KARL MOERSCH, PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, OFFICIALLY DECLARED HIS RESIGNATION ON DECEMBER 15. MOERSCH, WHO HAD REPEATEDLY BEEN CRITICIZED FOR HIS LACK OF PRESENCE IN THE LAND. DECLARED BEFORE THE PRESS THAT HE INTENDED TO CONCENTRATE FULLY ON FEDERAL POLITICS IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE TOLD, HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO CONTINUE AS PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY AFTER SCHEEL'S TRANSFER TO THE BUNDESPRAESIDIALAMT, HE INTENDS, RATHER, TO CONCENTRATE ON WORK IN THE FACTION AND "BECOME SOMETHING LIKE THE WEHNER OF THE "FDP", AS SOME JOURNALISTS PUT IT.

2. AT MOERSCH'S REQUEST, HIS TWO DEPUTY LAND CHAIRMEN, BUNDESTAG DEPUTY DR. MARTIN BANGEMANN AND DR. WOLFGANG VOGT ALSO RESIGNED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE NEXT FDP LAND COMMITTEE.

3. THE PRESENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO RECOMMEND BANGEMANN AS LAD CHAIRMAN. BANGEMANN, IN TURN, PROMISED TO GIVE UP HIS ASPIRATIONS TO SUCCEED BAHRENDORF OR FLACH, BUT SAID HE WANTED REMAIN IN THE BUNDESTAG AND BRUSSELS FOR THE TIME BEING. HE WILL RUN FOR THE LANDTAG IN THE SPRING OF 1976.

4. THE LAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SUGGEST TO THE CONVENTION THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ELECTED DEPUTY CHAIRMEN:

A) GEORG GALLUS, BUNDESTAG DEPUTY, WHO SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PART CONTACT TO THE AGRICULTURAL CIRCLES OF THE LAND (AND SERVE AS VISABLE SIGN THAT THE MORE CONSERVATIVE FDPERS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN);

B) KLAUS ROESCH, FORMER JUNGDEMOKRATEN LAND CHAIRMAN, WHO SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL PART OF THE LAND PARTY AND FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE COMMUNAL ELECTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON APRIL 20,1975;

C) HINRICH ENDERLEIN, A YOUNG LANDTAG DEPUTY, WHO SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTACT BETWEEN PARTY AND LANDTAG FACTION WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN NEGLECTED.

5. COMMENTS:

A. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE JANUARY 5 CONVENTION WILL APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRESENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

B. WITH BANGEMANN STILL IN BONN AND BRUSSELS- AND ALLEGEDLY HOPING TO SUCCEED MOERSCH AS PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDER GENSHER - AND GALLUS BEING TIED UP IN BONN MOST OF THE TIME, THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP WILL LEAVE THE FIELD TO THE TWO YOUNGER DEPUTY CHAIRMEN, ROESCHE AND ENDERLEIN, WHO HAVE A REPUTATION OF BEING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THEIR PARTY. THEY ARE BY NO MEANS RADICALS. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE THEIR TIME TO PARTY WORK. ROESCH IS A MILLIONAIRE AND FACTORY HEIR, ENDERLEIN GAVE UP HIS POSITION AS ASSISTANT AT THE TUEBINGEN UNIVERSITY WHEN HE WAS ELECTED TO THE LANDTAG. AN HISTORIAN BY PROFESSION, WITH ONE YEAR'S STUDIES IN MOSCOW, HE HAD LONG INTENDED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN.

C. IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS SMALL INDICATORS THAT THE B-W FDP WAS PREPARING THE WAY FOR A COALITION WITH THE CDU. BUT NOW IT LOOKS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A CDU-FDP COALITION AFTER THE 1976 LANDTAG ELECTIONS. THE CDU, WHICH HAS A CLEAR LEAD, WILL TRY MORE THAN EVER TO RETAIN THE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. BANGEMANN, ROESCH, AND ENDERLEIN, ALTHOUGH CRITICAL OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SPD, WILL CERTAINLY STRIVE FOR A SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION IN BADEN- WUERTTEMBERG, THUS REDUCING THE RISK OF ANY SERIOUS DEFECTION FROM THE FDP NATIONAL STAND SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER 1976. RUCHTI

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